WIND ON THE WIRES: Responses to Questions posted to Michigan Energy Forum Website

35. How has the dispatch of renewable generation changed since the implementation of MISO's Dispatchable Intermittent Resource (DIR) tariff? How has dispatching of renewable energy impacted rates in Michigan?

Over the past few years MISO has required wind facility owners to provide day-ahead forecasts on their output and have implemented Dispatchable Intermittent Resources to improve MISO's remote control over wind facilities. DIR allows MISO to remotely reduce the overall output of a wind facility, instead of simply shutting the wind facility down, to avoid or minimize system congestion. This minimizes the amount of wind facility curtailments, reduces transmission line congestion, facilitates lower electric production costs and provides savings to ratepayers whose electric providers purchase electricity through the MISO wholesale market. Since DIR reduces the amount of time a windfarm is curtailed, the average cost of renewable energy should also decrease, because the windfarm operator has more hours to sell its product into the market and receive a return to cover its costs.

Sean Brady, Wind on the Wires